

WEEK 4: Joshua's Last Words

Big Idea: God helps us find peace.

HANGOUT

1. Discuss: What does the word "peace" mean? (it could refer to when people get along or it can be a feeling of serenity and stillness)
2. Challenge the kids to imagine a perfectly peaceful environment. Ask them what they would see, hear, or feel in this place. Invite them to describe it.
3. Introduce today's Big Idea: **God helps us find peace.** This is true even when we're in a situation that's not peaceful!
4. If possible, share an age-appropriate story about a time when God gave you peace.
5. Discuss: Has God ever given you peace? What happened?

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

HEAR

6. Let the kids know that in today's God Story, they'll hear some of the last words of Joshua. Remind them that he was God's servant who led the people of Israel into the promised land.
7. Look up and read Joshua 23:1-5.
8. Discuss:
 - Who did God give the people of Israel rest from? (see verse 1)
 - According to Joshua, who fought against Israel's enemies? (verse 3)
9. Explain that God overcame Israel's enemies to give them peace. Later, Jesus overcame something even bigger than that!
10. Look up and read John 16:33. Explain that these are the words of Jesus to his disciples.
11. Discuss:
 - What did Jesus overcome?
 - What does Jesus say we will have here on earth?
 - Where does Jesus say we can find peace?

HUDDLE

12. Explain that Jesus can give us peace, no matter what is going on in our lives!
13. Discuss: How can we come to Jesus? (e.g., praying, being part of the church community, through music and worship, being in nature, through serving others, reading the Bible, taking time to sit quietly and listen to God, etc.)
14. Guide everyone to spread out around your group's space and find a comfortable spot. Encourage the kids to spend a few minutes in prayer, talking to Jesus or just quietly listening. Bring them back together and pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for your peace. Please teach us to come to you every day so we can have your peace no matter what's happening! We love you. Amen."

Write an acrostic poem using about what peace means to you.

P

E

A

C

E